increasing the allocation, the Government of India commissioned the detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. The recommendations of NCAER have been received. Thereafter, the allocations for 2005-06 were maintained at the level of 2004-05 including additional allocations made during that year to meet emergency/urgent demands for PDS Kerosene in States/Union Territories. Allocations for the 1st, 2nd & 3rd quarter of 2006-07 have been maintained at the level of 2005-06.

Wheat:—The Central Government has received request from the State Government of Kerala for increasing the quantity of wheat. In view of improved stock position, the Central Government has made an additional allocation of 27,000 tonnes of APL wheat in four instalments for the months of September, October, November and December, 2006.

Export of rice from FCI godowns

1849. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands or even lakhs of tonnes of rice is being illegally sourced and exported from FCI godowns;

(b) whether the same rice is meant for welfare schemes like Food for Work Programme;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The Central Government has taken the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation upto the principal distribution centres of FCI and the State Government responsible for effectively distributing the same to the consumers through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) lies with the State Governments. At present about 4.89 lakhs FPSs distribute foodgrains to Ration Card holders in the country. In such a vast network of PDS, the possibilities of irregularities in some cases/places can not be ruled out. Whenever Government receives

complaints in this respect, these have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments for appropriate action.

Recently based on a news item telecast by a TV Channel on 16.10.06, regarding export of PDS rice, a factual position was called for from the Government of Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat reported that on inspection of premises/godowns of a firm in Chudva, District Kutch, it was noted that the firm has stored 6401.508 MTs rice at seven different places for which the firm failed to produce purchase bills. Stacking of rice bags was haphazard, so that it was difficult to count. Moreover, most of rice bags-had labels of FCI, so there was reason to believe that the rice may be of PDS quota. District Supply Officer (DSO) of the Government of Gujarat seized 3401.200 MT basmati rice and 3000.308 MT non-basmati rice. The Collector, Kutch released 3401.200 MT basmati rice as basmati rice is not distributed PDS.

However, to avoid irregularities like diversion/leakage, malpractices etc., on the basis of the discussions held with the State Food Ministers/ Food Secretaries the Central Government has drawn a nine points action plan and sent to all the State Governments for its implementation. The Action Plan is as under:-

1. States should undertake a campaign for Review of BPL/AAY lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards.
2. Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. In this respect information asked for under clause 8 & 9 of PDS Control Order, may also be sent.
3. For sake of transparency involvement of elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains be ensured. As far as possible, FPS licences be given to SHGs, gram panchayats, cooperatives, etc.
4. BPL/AAY lists should be displayed on all FPSs.
5. District-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains should be put up on websites and other prominent places, for public scrutiny.
6. Wherever possible, door step delivery of foodgrains should be ensured by States, instead of letting private transporters/ wholesalers to transport goods.
7. Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level and fixed dates of distribution to ration card holders should be ensured.

8. Training of members of FPS level Vigilance Committees should be ensured, Proposals for funding training can be sent to the GOI.

9. Computerisation of TPDS operations be undertaken.

In addition, the Government has also taken steps for introducing electronic transfer of funds to FCI and issued instructions for display of banners/Boards on the wind shield as well as rear end of the truck/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating name of State Government, distination, commodity and Agent's name.

Pollution spreading units

†1850. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of such pollution spreading units, State-wise, particularly in Delhi, which come under 'H' and other categories as per the Master Plan;

(b) the steps taken by the Central Government to check pollution, spread by these units during the last three years; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that serious problem of pollution is prevailing in towns, cities and metropolitan cities particularly in the Capital Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The steps taken for control of pollution by industrial units include:

- notification of general and source specific standards for emissions and effluents;
- regulating the siting of industries;
- regular monitoring for environmental compliance to environment standards; and
- the legal action against non-complying units.

(c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality at various locations. The monitored data reveals that air quality

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.